

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend Claims 1 – 8 as indicated in the following listing of claims, which replaces all prior versions and listings of claims.

1 1. (Currently Amended) An unwinding system for handling reels of tissue comprising:  
2 ~~, of the type of those whereby~~ for each ply of laminar tissue to be applied, ~~use is~~  
3 ~~made of~~ a pair of reels ~~(25 and 32)~~, of which one supplies ~~the~~ a laminar web to be applied,  
4 whilst the other is placed on stand-by to be spliced onto ~~the~~ an infeed line when the supply reel  
5 is spent, ~~characterised in that wherein~~:

6 the ~~two pair of~~ reels ~~(25 and 32) of the unwinding unit~~ are mounted in ~~their~~  
7 respective reel-carrier assemblies ~~(1 and 2)~~ which are capable of vertical displacement, with one  
8 reel being located on ~~the~~ an upper part and the other on ~~the~~ a lower part at a distance between  
9 them that enables the reel in stand-by to be prepared whilst the other reel is in ~~the~~ an operating  
10 mode;

11 ~~in that~~ each reel is mounted between ~~their~~ respective holding cones ~~(7 and 8)~~, ~~by~~  
12 ~~means of which~~ that control unwinding rotation ~~is controlled~~, with said cones ~~(7 and 8)~~ also  
13 being capable of being moved closer together or further apart for ~~the~~ loading and unloading of  
14 the corresponding reel; and

15 ~~in that the~~ a reel-carrier from which ~~the one of the~~ reels is removed is displaced  
16 vertically until it occupies the upper ~~position~~part, whilst ~~the~~ a reel-carrier that holds ~~the~~ a fresh  
17 reel that is coming into operation drops to a lower position, freeing the upper part for ~~the~~  
18 incorporation of a new reel in the reel-carrier that has become unoccupied.

1 2. (Currently Amended) An unwinding system for handling reels of tissue, ~~all in accordance~~  
2 ~~with~~ as recited in claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ for ~~the~~ application of two laminar plies  
3 of tissue two symmetrical unwinding units are arranged, each ~~one of them consisting of their~~  
4 unwinding unit comprising respective reel-carrier assemblies ~~(1 and 2)~~ capable of being

5 displaced vertically and fitted with cones ~~(7 and 8)~~ for holding the corresponding reels ~~(25 and~~  
6 ~~32)~~.

1 3. (Currently Amended) An unwinding system for handling reels of tissue, ~~all in accordance~~  
2 ~~with as recited in claims 1 and 2, characterised in that each unwinding unit includes further~~  
3 ~~comprising~~ a splicing mechanism for ~~the~~ automatic splicing of the laminar web on the reel ~~(25)~~  
4 in stand-by with the web on the reel in operation ~~(32)~~ when the latter is spent, with said  
5 mechanism ~~consisting of~~ comprising a fixed bar ~~(12)~~, a moving bar ~~(13)~~ operated by pneumatic  
6 cylinders that is capable of being displaced towards the fixed bar ~~(12)~~ and another moving bar  
7 ~~(15)~~ operated by a chain and pinion system that is capable of displacement between a position of  
8 operation ~~on it~~ and a position of insertion between the fixed bar ~~(12)~~ and the moving bar ~~(13)~~ to  
9 be grasped between them, with said other moving bar ~~(15)~~ incorporating a clamp ~~(29)~~, ~~by means~~  
10 ~~of which the~~ such that a leading edge ~~(28)~~ of the laminar web that is in the stand-by position  
11 may be taken up.

1 4. (Currently Amended) An unwinding system for handling reels of tissue, ~~all in accordance~~  
2 ~~with as recited in claim 3, characterised in that wherein~~ the splicing mechanism ~~consists of~~  
3 comprises an automatic cutting system ~~(45)~~ which is fitted with a blade ~~(46)~~ capable of  
4 displacement by pneumatic action to a position resting on ~~the~~ web ~~(41)~~ of the reel ~~(32)~~ in  
5 operation ~~that is running out~~, in conjunction with a change in ~~the~~ direction of rotation of said  
6 reel ~~(32)~~ in operation that causes a tug on the web ~~(41)~~, which thus effectively leads to ~~the a~~  
7 cutting of said web ~~(41)~~ subsequent to ~~the a~~ splicing of ~~the~~ fresh web ~~(4)~~ which is to continue  
8 the supply; with the blade (46) being envisaged in the shape of a comb, to facilitate the incision  
9 on the web ~~(41)~~ to be cut.

1 5. (Currently Amended) An unwinding system for handling reels of tissue, ~~all in accordance~~  
2 ~~with as recited in claims 1 to 3, characterised in that at the~~ further comprising an outlet ~~of~~  
3 ~~each unwinding unit there is having~~ a mechanism comprising two fixed rollers ~~(16 and 17)~~ and  
4 a moving roller ~~(18)~~ capable of vertical displacement and controlled by a ~~synchronisation~~  
5 synchronization device ~~(20)~~, with said mechanism ~~consisting of~~ comprising a rocker arm for

6 tension in ~~the~~ a supply line and a magazine for ~~the~~ passage of ~~the~~ corresponding web for ~~the~~  
7 continuity of the supply during splicing.

1 6. (Currently Amended) An unwinding system for handling reels of tissue, ~~all in accordance~~  
2 ~~with~~ as recited in claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ inserted into each reel to be mounted  
3 on the unwinding device there are bushings (21) that are fitted into ~~the~~ ends of ~~the~~ a mandrel of  
4 each corresponding reel, with said bushings (21) featuring lateral windows (22), to act as sockets  
5 for expansion keys (23) on the cones (7 and 8) for holding the reel in the assembly, which are  
6 inserted into said bushings (21), establishing a rotary connection for ~~the~~ operation of the  
7 corresponding reel by means of said insertion of the keys (23) into the windows (22) on the  
8 aforementioned bushings.

1 7. (Currently Amended) An unwinding system for handling reels of tissue, ~~all in accordance~~  
2 ~~with~~ as recited in claim 6, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the bushings (21) ~~feature~~ comprise a  
3 groove that remains on ~~the~~ an outside of the reel to be incorporated, for its attachment ~~by means~~  
4 ~~of with~~ said groove onto devices for lifting the reel into position on the assembly, the ~~said~~  
5 groove having positioning contours to adapt to the lifting device so that the bushings (21) are  
6 positioned to ensure that the keys (23) on the holding cones (7 and 8) fit into the windows (22).

1 8. (Currently Amended) An unwinding system for handling reels of tissue, ~~all in accordance~~  
2 ~~with~~ as recited in claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ below each reel-carrier (1 and 2)  
3 assembly a retractable ramp (48) is provided, with a stop (49) also retractable and in front of it,  
4 which comprises a receiving area for ~~the~~ unloading by freefall of ~~the~~ mandrels (47) of the spent  
5 reels, to situate said mandrels on a conveyor belt (52) for their removal.